

**Cybiium immaculatum**, Cuv. & Val.

*Cybiium immaculatum*, CUVIER & VALENCIENNES, *op. cit.*, p. 191.—GÜNTHER, *op. cit.*, p. 370, note 5.

The *Cybiium immaculatum* of Cuvier has the body immaculate in specimens only six or seven inches long.

**Acanthocybiium peto**, Poey.

*Acanthocybiium Petus*, POEY, *Memorias sobre la Historia Natural de la Isla de Cuba*, ii, 1860, p. 234, pl. xvi, fig. 1; *Repert.*, ii, p. 363.

Vulgo:—*Peto*.

This genus differs from *Cybiium* by its numerous dorsal spines, twenty-five in number. The type taken by Professor Gill has the teeth compressed, triangular. The Cuban species has the points of the teeth rounded. The caudal is very small. The lower jaw has its sides deeply notched and its extremity lower than its lateral edges. In specimens of less than three feet, the body is covered with vertical bands of a vitreous lustre (*glacées*). It grows very large, sometimes attaining the weight of one hundred pounds.

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**THE CLUPEA TYRANNUS OF LATROBE.**

**By G. BROWN GOODE.**

Mr. Benjamin H. Latrobe, a surveyor of public lands, published, in 1802, a description of a clupeoid fish the affinities of which have never been satisfactorily determined.\* Dr. DeKay, misled by the name "alewife", applied the specific name *tyrannus* to the northern species known to him by that popular name (*Pomolobus pseudo-harengus*), a usage which was concurred in by Dr. Storer and M. Valenciennes. In his earlier writings, Professor Gill referred the same name to the shad (*Alosa sapidissima*). Latrobe's paper, and the name therein proposed, have lately been lost sight of; but there is little doubt that they refer to the menhaden, or mossbunker (*Clupea menhaden*, Mitchill, and *Brevoortia menhaden*, Gill). The laws of priority demand that this species shall henceforth be designated *Brevoortia tyrannus*.

The fishes of the Chesapeake and its tributaries have been very little studied until within the past three years, and the habits of the menhaden are so different in these waters and in the north that it does not seem surprising for Northern ichthyologists to have made mistaken identification of Latrobe's specific name.

A few years ago the Capes of Delaware were thought to define the southern range of the menhaden, while its peculiar parasite and its habit of ascending southern rivers were unknown.

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\*A Drawing and Description of the *Clupea tyrannus* and *Oniscus praeustator*. By Benjamin H. Latrobé, F. A. P. S. <Transactions of the American Philosophical Society held at Philadelphia for promoting useful knowledge, vol. v, 1802, p. 77.

I shall soon publish a full discussion of this subject. At present, my conclusions may be stated as follows:—

(1) The figure, while undeniably bad, resembles the menhaden very closely, while it cannot be intended to represent any allied species. The contour, were the missing dorsal fin supplied, is similar to that of the menhaden. The black spot upon the scapular region is constant in the menhaden only, though a similar one is occasionally seen upon the shad and alewife.

(2) The name “bay alewife” is the same now given to the menhaden in the Chesapeake and its tributaries. This is a strong argument: for although seventy-five years have passed since Latrobe wrote, the persistence of popular names is very remarkable, as I have elsewhere pointed out.\* Moreover, Latrobe was also acquainted with a “her-ring” and a “shad”. These being eliminated, there is no other fish than the menhaden to which the description in question can refer.

(3) The habits of the alewife, as described by Latrobe, are essentially the same as those of the menhaden at the present day. The alleged river-ascending habits of the “bay alewife” were thought to throw its identity with the menhaden out of the question. This is no longer an obstacle.

(4) The presence of the crustacean parasite is the strongest argument of all. While this is found in the mouths of a large percentage of the southern menhaden, suggesting the local name of “bug fish”, it has never once been found attached to any other species, although careful search has been made by several persons. The northern menhaden is free from this parasite. This is still another reason for the failure to identify on the part of northern writers.

Latrobe's name has the priority over Mitchill's by thirteen years. It is to be regretted that it is necessary to replace by another a name so appropriate and of such long standing.

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#### THE OCCURRENCE OF *BELONE LATIMANUS* IN BUZZARD'S BAY, MASSACHUSETTS.

By G. BROWN GOODE.

A peculiar species of *Belone* was obtained at Wood's Holl, in 1875, by Professor Baird. It was caught in the weir on Great Neck, owned by the Wood's Holl Weir Company. On study, it proved to be the form described by Professor Poey under the name *Belone latimanus*, and hitherto known only from Cuba. A good water-color sketch (Cat. No. 795) was made by Mr. Richard, a photograph (Cat. No. 218) taken, and the specimen and a finely colored cast (Cat. No. 16121) are preserved in the National Museum.

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\* Catalogue of the Fishes of the Bermudas, 1876, p. 15.